



THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

The Church of the Pilgrimage,
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May 7, 2006

No. 18

Dear Friends,

Kathy and I cannot thank the church enough for the wonderful celebration of thirty-five years of ministry to The Church of the Pilgrimage. Though the Advisory Board initiated and oversaw the event, many others worked to make it a marvelous, if humbling, event. I thank Deacon John McNicholas for his well-crafted presentation concerning my years of service to The Church of the Pilgrimage and Plymouth Community. His message was heartfelt and moving. I love him for that and many other reasons!

Deaconess Alice Heckman was so sensitive in her tribute to Kathy. Alice spoke as one who knows first hand what it means to be the spouse of a minister. It is not an easy life! Kathy contributes in many ways to our congregational life, ways that very often go unnoticed. She knows where everything is! For her, all that she does is an act of her deep, abiding and sustaining faith. She rarely receives recognition publicly, but she works in behind-the-scene ways for the good of the church, not for recognition. It is a matter of faith for her. In fact, she has a remarkable capacity to give, even in small ways, without expectation of reward. Thank you, Alice, for offering the church an opportunity to say "Thank You!"

The lunch following the service was really an elegant dinner! Many worked hard to make it that way. Deaconess Jenny Healy and Tom, however, seem to me to be the "commanders in chefs" of the sumptuous spread.

The letters I received were, and are, very precious to me. I was touched to tears by some with whom I have been able to share in the gains and losses of life. The letters were so moving I'd like to hear from others who may not have gotten around to writing one by last Sunday.

Our choir performed one of my favorite pieces of music for the service, "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring." The choir also sang a piece featuring Kelley Depasqua's angelic voice entitled "You Raise Me Up." Both pieces were inspiring and made the more so because performed by people I love so very much.

And, the Children's Choir also sang a piece of music whose message I'm tired to include in my preaching for thirty-five years in Plymouth. The title; "Jesus Loves Me." Thank you kids! I gave the first Children's Sermon during a Sunday service more than thirty years ago. It was very special to Kathy and me to have had the participation of our beautiful church school children in the service.

The bulletin cover was produced by Paul Sinn. Paul does great work with his new high-tech toys! Its too bad he didn't have much of a subject with which to work! The photo, by the way, was taken from the roof of the new condo across from Plymouth Rock on Cole's Hill on Easter Sunday, 2006.

I want to thank my dear colleague in ministry, Heather for putting her loving care into creating a very special day. She is a blessing to me and to the church.

Shellie McCormack, too, acted in a coordinating capacity for the whole event. Shellie works so hard for the church and its ministers and we only have her services and charm on a half-time schedule. We need full-time secretarial service! I hope you'll find ways to thank Shellie for her able and loving service to our congregation.

It was also nice to receive a proclamation for the anniversary celebration from the Plymouth Board of Selectmen delivered by the board's chair and friend of The Church of the Pilgrimage, Kenneth Tavares.

There were several gifts presented to us for which I am thankful. There is a fine picture of Plimoth Plantation which was presented and will hang in my office. The church that gave me a check with which to purchase a new robe. That is a gift just in time. I've only ever had one robe which was new when purchased and that was almost thirty years ago. I'd begun to look a bit like Rev. Raggedy Andy! Thank you! I hope I live long enough to wear it out!

There were also books, gift certificates, and Deaconess Dottie Bottomley's sensitive touch in floral arrangements.

I hope I haven't left out of this letter the mention of people who worked so hard to make Sunday's celebration such a happy event. It was a grand day! As I said at the end of the service the words from the wedding service come to mind. "For better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health..." In a profound sense we are, and have long since been, covenanted in ministry in a very special congregation. May God continue to bless us as we seek to proclaim the gospel of peace and to find the Way of Christ for ourselves, our world and our posterity.

Thank you!

Love,

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No Children's Worship this Sunday, May 7th—
Instead, children & Sunday School teachers will gather in Allerton Hall before worship. Children & teachers will then form a special procession into the sanctuary in

honor of Heifer Project International. They will then sit in the front pews until the Children's Message. Following the Children's Message, they will go to their Sunday School classes.

Clerk – Lois Post; Moderator – Steven Triffletti; Treasurer – Dave Kegel; Collector – Debra Richters;
Music Director-William B. Richter; Secretary- Shellie McCormack; Sexton-Tony Nightingale;
World Mission Emphasis-Heifer Project International; Church Building Telephone – (508) 747-1341

This Week:

Sun, May 7: *Morning Worship*, 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching; *Holy Communion* will be part of this service; *Heifer Project International* will sponsor a lunch following the service in Allerton Hall (see notes); *Cherub Choir* rehearsal in sanctuary following worship; *Troop 47 Committee Meeting*, 7pm, Church House.

Mon, May 8: *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am; *Brownies*, 4-5pm & *Girl Scouts*, 6-7, Church House, Stewart Room; **Rev. Heather in Cleveland for 2030 Clergy Network through May 11th.**

Tue, May 9: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am; *Aerobics*, 6:30pm, Allerton Hall; *Advisory Board Meeting*, 7:30pm, Church House Conference Room.

Wed, May 10: *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am; Rev. Marks will be in the Church Office at 9:30am; *Boy Scouts*, 7-9pm, Great Hall; *Music Committee Meeting* 7pm, Allerton Hall; *Choir Rehearsal*, 7:30, Sanctuary; *Evening Prayer Service* 7-7:30, Sanctuary

Thurs, May 11: *Aerobics*, 6:30pm, Allerton Hall; *Membership & Evangelism Meeting*, 7pm at the home of Amy Simpson; *Nominating Committee Meeting*, 7pm, Conference Room; *Stewardship Committee*, 7:15pm Stewart Room.

Fri, May 12: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am; *Aerobics*, Allerton Hall, 9am; *Guild Meeting*, 1pm, Allerton Hall.

Coming Events:

May 21 *Heather's Installation Ecclesiastical Council, 2pm*
Installation Service, 3pm

June 4 *Confirmation*

CHURCH RECORD

Hospitalized

- Ellen Sullivan, Jordan Hospital
- Marion Whiting, Jordan Hospital

In Memoriam

- On May 2, 2006 Rev. Marks conducted a memorial service for Benjamin Butler Franklin.

Congratulations, Rev. Heather, for being selected to serve as a Regional Leader for the newly formed UCC 2030 Clergy Network. This is an organization for clergy in the United Church of Christ who are in their 20s and 30s. Rev. Heather will be at the national offices of the UCC in Cleveland, Ohio, May 8th-11th to attend a Leadership in Koinonia conference for the 2030 Clergy Network. Please keep her and the other clergy gathering for this event in your prayers.

This Sunday afternoon, May 7th, our Confirmands, some of their mentors, and Rev. Heather will be traveling to First Church of Cambridge (UCC) to attend their 5:30p.m. Jazz Worship Service. Please keep all of us in your prayers as we experience this new and meaningful way to worship God.

The mailboxes have moved! The mailboxes located in Allerton Hall have moved over the church house. They are located to the left of the staircase on the ground floor of the church house. Anyone who is unable to make their way over to the church house may give their mail to the deacon in charge. Thank you.

Wednesday Evening Prayer Services will continue during May, unless otherwise announced. The services are in a Celtic-Christian style. There are brief readings and times for quiet prayer, meditation and reflection. These services are from 7:00-7:30pm in the sanctuary. You are welcome to join us.

Church Membership: A few people have indicated an interest in church membership. Rev. Marks will offer another series of classes when there are enough people

indicating an interest. Please call the church office or speak with Rev. Marks.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS-The Missions and Outreach Committee is providing a light luncheon of sandwiches, fruit and animal cookies, during the coffee hour in Allerton hall this Sunday. This event marks the beginnings of our focus on Heifer International for the month of May.

May is Heifer International Month: Help End Hunger and Poverty

Each Sunday individuals and families are invited to sign up to help Heifer at the special tables in Allerton Hall. The income raised will help buy farm animals for hungry families and will help rebuild the barn at Overlook Farm that was lost in a fire on March 6th.

During the past three decades The Church of the Pilgrimage has contributed \$50,960.65 to help end hunger and poverty through Heifer International. **Sunday, May 7, 2006** March of the Children during our worship service. Animal Crackers Curriculum begins in our Church School. Sandwich lunch and animal cookies during coffee hour.

Sunday, May 14, 2006 *Mother's Day* Celebrate your Mother and other special people in your life by giving a gift in their honor and receive a special Mother's Day Card. Special Children's Message.

Sunday, May 21, 2006 Celebrate Passing on the Gift. Also, The Rev. Heather Moody's special day.

Sunday, May 28, 2006 Final Day of Heifer Month. Special Children's Message

Thank you for your help. The Missions and Outreach Committee

SUDAN-The World's Gravest Emergency

Asisa, a refugee from Darfur, tells her story from a camp in neighboring Chad. "I fled from my village when I saw the Janjaweed militia attacking the neighboring village. I heard the machine guns and bombs, and I could see the light from the burning houses in the dark night... Two of my brothers were killed during the attack, and my husband is not with me anymore," she says.

By 2005, nearly two million people had fled their homes and villages in Sudan. About 180,000 had been killed in the attacks or have died from hunger and disease in makeshift camps, according to the U.S. Agency for International Development. Gifts of One Great Hour of Sharing help to meet the needs of 500,000 of the most vulnerable people, mostly women and children, who lack shelter, food and clean water. *The Church of the Pilgrimage supports Darfur through One Great Hour of Sharing and Church World Service*

Thank You Breakfast: A wonderful breakfast was held as a "thank you" to those who have volunteered for Overnights of Hospitality and Meals program for the homeless. The breakfast was held in Allerton Hall on April 29th. The ministry to the homeless is a project of the Taskforce for the Homeless. The Missions and Outreach Committee of The Church of the Pilgrimage has been very involved in the program as have other area churches and the synagogue. Several of our people have prepared and served meals and have acted as overnight chaperones. We thank one and all who helped in this ministry.

Guild Members: Don't forget your birthday party on May 12th. Also, try to remember your money for our annual luncheon meeting. See you May 12th!

Paperback books needed for the house of correction. If you have any you would like to donate, please see Diana Budge.

Knitting Group: On the second Tuesday of every month both novice knitters and accomplished ones are invited to the home of Diana Budge at 15 Oak Street. You are welcome to bring any type of handiwork or just yourself for conversation...we even serve refreshments! Please join us for an evening of fellowship and fun. (Next evening: Tuesday, May 9th at 7pm.)

A Note of Thanks from Laura Curtin: I would like to thank everyone who helped with my recovery these past few months. All of the prayers, cards, flowers, phone calls, and dinners prepared for me and my family were greatly appreciated, and truly helped in making my recovery easier. Thank you for all of your love and support. I feel blessed to have such a loving church family. Thank you! Sincerely, Laura Curtin

Laura will be doing the Avon Breast Cancer Walk in Boston, May 20-21. Day 1 is 26 miles and Day 2 is 13 for a total of 39 miles. If you would like to sponsor Laura please log on to <http://tinyurl.com/hmpdn> or you may make a contribution directly to Laura.

Pawtucket Red Sox Game: Verna and Al Hoyt have obtained 50 Box Seats for the July 16th Pawtucket Red Sox Game (the seats are all together on the first base side). We will be leaving immediately after Church to make the 1:05 starting time. The cost will be announced soon, but should not be more than \$25.00 per person, INCLUDING the cost of the bus. See Verna or Al to reserve your seat. First come first served.

Many Hands Thanks: Thank you so much to all the many, many hands and hearts that made Sunday's celebration a wonderful success. I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity that come in so many forms, that covered the tables, that filled the seats and every nook and corner of Allerton hall, that happily washed and dried and filled and served. All week long every time I thought of something that needed to be done, I would bump into someone or receive a call and that prayer would be answered. And a special thank you to Dottie Bottomley who made the room come to life with flowers and tablecloths and color. It was all of you who made it happen, and happen in such a joyful way. Thank you, Jenny

p.s. A special thank you is also extended to Piantedosi's Butcher shop for giving us a considerable discount on that delicious roast beef (not to mention the stew beef for the Time & Talent dinner) and the best cuts as well.

**Heifer Study Tour to Uganda/Rwanda
July 10-26, 2006**

There are still about 4 places left on the Study Tour which will have 16 persons. You will visit Heifer's work in Uganda and Rwanda, including Kisinga, where Beatrice Biira will welcome us to her village. Rosalee

Sinn is a part of the leadership team for this tour. If you are interested, please contact Rosalee at 508-224-6853 or Dansingoat@aol.com.



GOLF TOURNAMENT SIGNUP: The 6th Annual Church of the Pilgrimage Golf Tournament will tee off at 8 Saturday morning, **June 17, 2006** at Squirrel Run Golf Course. (Please note the corrected date!!!) We need corporate and individual hole sponsors (\$100) to make this fundraiser a success. Ask your employer, or advertise your own business. Our hole sponsors are getting a "two-for" deal: Since our 7th Golf Tournament is coming up so soon (Sept. 23 at Southers Marsh GC), we're offering a price break if you reserve hole sponsorship for both now. We are taking reservations immediately for individuals and foursomes at \$80/person. Not a golfer? Join us at noon for the Bar-B-Q and raffle prizes: \$25/adults, \$5/kids. Call Mike Harrington, 508-747-2060, or Judy Mitchell, 508-746-3959, for more info.

Extra-Extra from the Hoyts: This will serve as official warning and notice that as of 4:30 PM Today We are Officially Grandparents! Carl Allen Hoyt was born howling as a proper Hoyt should. All 8 lbs 2 oz of his very healthy 21 inch frame. In military terms this means that there will be no quarter, when informing everyone and anyone within a 30 square mile radius, of every miniscule event in this gifted child's life. No matter how mundane and regardless of the nature of the event. I am certain you all wish to know how proud we are of the future president, noble laureate, and saint that is our grandchild. We promise to keep you all informed of bowel habits, sounds and smells that this child produces because we know that you all share our joy in the accomplishments of youth. If you see us coming...RUN Al and Verna

The Pilgrim Association will gather for an
ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL
on Sunday, May 21st, 2006 at 2:00 pm
at The Church of the Pilgrimage, UCC, 8 Town Square,
Plymouth to meet, review the credentials of
and share the faith journey of
The Reverend Heather Moody.
The Association will then proceed with the church, at
3:00 to install The Reverend Moody as Associate Pastor.

Bluegrass Gospel Project featuring six of the Northeast's finest bluegrass, country and folk musicians will perform at First Baptist Church on Saturday, June 3rd at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. For more information visit www.fbc-plymouth.org or call Ray Tompkins 508-496-4957.